

Judge Black's First Appointment.

Hon. Alexander Thompson presided as Judge of the Sixteenth Judicial District of Pennsylvania (composed of the counties of Franklin, Bedford and Somerset) from the 25th of June, 1827, to March, 1842. He was a just man and a good Judge, but toward the close of his public life he encountered some opposition. A prominent lawyer of Chambersburg was named as an opposing candidate for the office, and soon a warm contest arose, in which the leading lawyers and citizens in the district took part. David R. Porter was then in the Executive chair. There was scarcely a lawyer in the district who did not visit the Governor to discuss the merits of the candidates. Early in the year 1842 a gentleman from Somerset called to oppose or to support one of the candidates—I cannot remember whom—and in his conversation produced a letter and read from it a paragraph. The Governor asked to have the whole letter read, which was done. It discussed the points of difference between the two candidates. The Governor asked to be allowed to read the letter for himself, which was done.

"Black," he said; "J. S. Black? Whose son is he?"

The visitor here mentioned the name of Mr. Black's father.

Governor—I remember him. I sat with him in the Internal Improvement Convention of 1825, and he certainly was a most intelligent gentleman. But what can you tell me about the son?

Visitor—Well, he is a young lawyer with some practice. He sits in his office, walks up and down town, sits on the dry-goods boxes on the corner, makes some political speeches, and quotes Shakespeare.

Governor—Shakespeare! Shakespeare on the top of the Alleghany Mountains. What can he know about Shakespeare?

Visitor—Well, I believe he can repeat any play Shakespeare ever wrote.

Governor—What else does he do?

Visitor—He preaches.

Governor—Preaches! What does he preach about?

Visitor—He preaches as all the rest of the preachers do, and I can tell you he can get up in the Court House on Sunday morning and preach and pray about as well as any of them.

Governor—Well, so much for the Gospel—what about the law? Does he do much in that way?

Visitor—Yes; and there are some people who think he is a very good young lawyer.

Governor—How does he figure in court?

Visitor—He is rather awkward and hesitates some. He often amuses us very much, but I don't think he will ever make much of a speaker.

The visitor left, and the Governor, after a long pause, said to his amanuensis: "I did not believe there was a man in Somerset County who could write such a letter as that. Here is a man who has read Shakespeare and, no doubt, the Bible, or he could not preach much, and he pours out his thoughts in such English as amazes me. He evidently knows what a Judge ought to be. I must inquire further about that young man." As visitors called, inquiries were occasionally made about Mr. Black, and the answers were all satisfactory as to his character, moral and professional. Of course, advocates of his appointment soon sprang up. On the 30th of March, 1842, to the astonishment of many of the friends of the other candidates, a commission as President Judge was issued to Mr. Black. It is said that Judge Black was astounded when he saw it, asked whether the Governor had taken leave of his senses, protested his unwillingness to accept the office, and generally helped to set the town of Somerset in an uproar. He did accept the office, however, and in a few months established his entire competency to perform his duties, and rose high in the estimation of men of all parties.—*Judge Porter, in Philadelphia Press.*

Married for Keeps.

The skipper of a coal boat on the Baltimore & Ohio Canal recently decided, after mature deliberation and careful consideration, to marry his cook, who had been a tried and faithful servant to him for quite a number of his perilous trips on the storm-lashed canal. So he spoke to her about the matter one day, and after securing her coy consent, he ordered the boat tied up at a small town, and being a practical skipper, skipped up street after a parson. The nuptial knot was soon tied, the parson beaten down to a dollar and a half for his fee, and then the canal boatman said:

"Well Melindy, we are married fur keeps, now. We are hitched fur life, and must pull together. I'm a little short-handed to-day, and as that lead mule has got saddle galls on his back, you jist take the tow path, and lead him down to Harper's Ferry, an' I'll steer, an' kinder ruminate on some plan to give you work on the boat without goin' ashore in the mud. I've got a powerful sight more respect for you now, that you're my wife."—*Texas Siftings.*

—A San Francisco paper says that the fastest time ever made between that port and Honolulu by a sailing vessel was made by the American bark Comet in 1861—ten days and twenty hours, and that the quickest steamer's time was made by the Mariposa—six days eight and one-half hours.

—Washington inaugurated the practice of Presidential excursions from the capital. His first trip was to New England, where he was received with great demonstrations of joy.—*Chicago Index.*

Cleanliness in the Sick Room.

While cleanliness is of importance in every department of the household, it is doubly so in the sick room. Grimy windows, smoky walls, dirty and dust-filled carpets, objectionable in any apartment, should never be tolerated here, especially the last, as they are not only discomfiting to both patient and nurse, but exceedingly unsanitary also, the air being constantly vitiated by the fine dust that is beaten up out of them and wafted about the room.

Perhaps nothing shows greater neglect of the sick than untidily-kept bed and bedding. These should always be scrupulously neat and clean. Whatever is used for the sick to lie upon, whether feathers, mattress, or straw, a light, soft quilt should be spread between that and the sheet, and another in readiness to take its place that it may be frequently aired as well as occasionally washed. Quilts and counterpanes should be light, neat and clean, sheets and pillow-slips must be frequently changed, especially in fevers, where perspiration is profuse, or in case of eruptive and malignant diseases. Pillow-shields of factory or thick muslin should always be used inside the slips, and in case the head requires showering, or wet cloths are laid across the forehead, there should always be a piece of soft quilt or a folded sheet laid over the slip.

Whatever is worn by the sick or convalescent, whether under garments or outside apparel, however coarse or plain, should always be whole and clean; the nails should be kept carefully trimmed, the hair nicely brushed, and if the invalid is a woman, neatly braided at the back. A daily or semi-weekly sponging off of the body is in most cases desirable, while an occasional bath is absolutely indispensable to cleanliness and comfort. Where, as is sometimes the case, the disease is such as will not admit of a free use of water, the daily use of the flesh-brush should be substituted, though this can never wholly take the place of the bath.

In most cases of illness, whether chronic or acute, it is desirable to keep some odorless disinfectant scattered about the room. Flies should be rigidly excluded; often two or three are sufficient to harass and keep the invalid from repose, and at the now low cost of furnishing doors and windows with screens, there is little excuse for permitting these pests in any part of our domesticities.

Pleasantness and beauty, as well as cleanliness, are desirable in the sick-room, especially in chronic invalidism. Yet it is but infrequently we see much thought given to this matter. Dust-laden tables, disorderly drawers, with an incongruous array of medicine bottles, dirty teacups and grimy drinking-dishes, make up often the picture that meets the patient's glance. Fresh flowers are always welcome to the convalescent, while pictures that have something in them to think about are restful to the mind as well as pleasing to the eye. While the sick room should never be glaring with light, neither should it be like a dungeon for dimness and gloom. Where dazzling sunshine or even a bright light cannot be endured, often a glimmer of sunbeams through a partly open shutter is very cheering.

For those who are, in health, particular and fastidious in their ways, the keeping of themselves and surroundings in a tidy and agreeable way is doubly imperative, as disorder and dirt are to such a continual eye-sore and nerve-irritant, and through their harassing effects upon the mind render convalescence tedious and a return to health difficult.

Occasionally one is to be met who is influenced but slightly by things of this nature, whose mind dwells mainly on his own distresses, or on things remote, while still more seldom we see or hear of that anomaly in the sick room—one to whom any niceties of toilet are a weariness, any show of order-keeping about him a plague; and where this occurs it is doubtless better for the patient to have his way, however adverse to the principles or contrary to the habits of the nurse, for the reason that whatever is soothing to the mind is beneficial.—*Country Gentleman.*

Parsley in Winter.

It is very easy to have a supply of parsley all winter. Take up the plants from the garden, cut off all but a few small leaves at the center of the tuft, and plant them in a box of good soil. Another method is, to take a keg—a nail keg will answer; bore numerous inch or inch-and-a-half holes in its sides. Place the parsley with the crown at the holes and the roots extending horizontally into the keg, gradually filling in with earth to hold them in place. Finish by planting some roots upright at the top. Either box or keg, if supported at the kitchen window and watered as needed, will give a supply of fresh leaves all winter. The residents of cities who have no gardens, can buy parsley for this purpose in the markets, as it is usually sold with the roots attached. Those who are fond of parsley as a seasoning, and do not care to be at the trouble of raising it as above, may dry it readily and find it about as good as when fresh. Spread the leaves thinly on a pan; when the stove oven is not very hot, place this in it, and leave the door open. The parsley will dry very quickly; as soon as it is crisp, rub it between the hands into a powder, which is to be kept in bottles, tightly closed.—*American Agriculturist.*

—Lewis Cohen, a Hebrew gentleman of London, has been exempted from serving on a Coroner's jury on the ground of being the lineal descendant of Aaron, the high priest.

Local Warnings Against Tornadoes.

I have lately examined with some care the excellent compilation by Sergeant Finley, of the Signal Service, "Characteristics of Six Hundred Tornadoes," with reference to the question of devising a simple apparatus for saving human life. Saving property seems to be out of the question, as no structure can withstand the force of the tornado-wind. Life may be saved by recourse to underground shelters, cellars, etc., such as have actually been built in many places for this end. Two facts may be quoted from the work named: First—Three hundred and forty-seven out of three hundred and ninety-three tornadoes (that is, eighty per cent.) originated between the west and the south southwest points; Second—The average velocity of progression was about one mile in two minutes. . . . If five minutes' warning could have been given at any of the late tornadoes, many lives might have been saved. If each household could be warned by the continuous ringing of a bell, for example, that a wind of destructive force (say seventy miles per hour and upward) was approaching, and that five minutes were available in which to seek shelter, this would be well worth doing.

I have found that it is practicable to erect, at a moderate expense, (less than \$500), an apparatus which would give from three to five minutes' warning to all the inhabitants of a small town, by the firing of a cannon, for instance; and in addition, and without any increased expense, this apparatus could ring a bell in every house. The additional expense to each house would be less than ten dollars, the cost of maintenance would be less than one hundred dollars a year, and the work would be done by an intelligent person. The system, for a small town, would be something like the following: Suppose a circle described about the town with a radius of from two to two and one-half miles. The only serious danger from tornadoes is to be feared from the part of this circle between the west point and the southwest point. Along the circumference of this circle, between the south-southwest and west points, run a line of single telegraph-wire on twenty posts to the mile, and from the west point bring the wire into the town, letting it end at the telegraph office. It is grounded at each end of the line, and at the telegraph office it is connected with a battery, which sends a constant current over the line. Within the town, connection is made in various houses with magnets. Each magnet holds a detent, which prevents a bell from being rung by the action of a cheap clock-work governed by a coiled spring. If the circuit is broken anywhere in the line, each bell begins to ring, and continues to sound till its spring is run down; for four or five minutes for example. A cannon could be fired by a simple device, which would warn persons in the fields, etc., to seek shelter. In a large town the circuit might end in one of the engine-houses of the fire department, and ring a bell there. This would be the signal for the man on watch to repeat the warning simultaneously through as many local circuits as desirable.

It remains to indicate the way in which the circuit is to be broken by the wind. The circuit of telegraph poles from the south-southwest to the west points would contain about fifty poles. On every one of these the wire would run first to an insulator, then to an iron horizontal axis screwed into the side of the post. On this axis a piece of board one foot square can revolve freely. An iron rod projects below this board, and from the lower end of it a small wire goes to a pin in the telegraph-pole. This pin is connected by wire to a second insulator. From this the line goes to the next pole, and so on. The circuit ordinarily passes to the first insulator, thence to the iron rod, thence down the iron rod to the thin wire, through the pin to the second insulator, and so to the next telegraph-pole. The thin wire is a necessary part of the circuit. It is so made that it will break when the pressure of the wind on the square board is fifty pounds. The apparatus for each post is tested practically before it is set up. This can be done at any time in a simple manner. Whenever any single one of these boards is subjected to the pressure of fifty pounds, its wire will be ruptured, and the circuit will be broken, thus sending the necessary warning along the whole line. I have made one such indicator, which is connected with a small bell in this observatory. The wire is arranged so that it breaks at a wind-velocity of about ten miles per hour, and it works in a perfectly successful manner. The extension of the system for the protection of a small town is a simple matter. For a large city a more expensive system would have to be provided, as the wires between poles should be carried underground to protect them from the chance of disturbance.—*Prof. Holden, in Science.*

—At the Dal Verme Theatre, at Milan, the other night, an American named Shepherd created a great sensation by appearing with a luminous scarf pin, which was nothing more or less than a tiny electric lamp, warranted to go for five hours, by means of a small generator concealed in the waistcoat pocket.

—Mr. Repp, arrested for killing a horse belonging to Mr. George, near Burbank, O., plead guilty to the charge willingly, on condition that the horse be valued at \$34.99. The missing cent from an even \$35 saved him from the penitentiary, and he escaped with \$20 and forty days.—*Detroit post.*

—A Waseca (Minn.) man married his sister's daughter.—*St. Paul Pioneer.*

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